(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government from time to time has exhorted the states to remain vigilant and step up enforcement operations and intensify action to check malpractices *like* hoarding, profiteering and blackmarketing. At the same time, the Central Government has impressed upon the State/U.T. Governments that they should be very careful and selective in the matter of launching prosecution and should not resort to prosecution in cases of small and technical offences where departmental actions can be taken.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Publication of the cost of Production on the packed commodities

3610. DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make the declaration and publication of the cost of production of commodities on the packages of the various con sumer commodities ;

(b) if so, what is the exact pro -posal ;

(c) how far it will help in generating the consciousness in the public about the prices to be paid are not too high than the cost of production ; and

(d) whether some scientific format for calculating cost of production will be evolved lest producers wrongly show exhorbitant cost of production to keep prices high ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) to (d) There has been a strong feeling expressed *in the:* press and elsewhere that the actual sale prices of a number of prepacked commodities are far Jess than the price printed on the package. As the issue involved is complicated re-quiring a deeper study on a number of points like the element of freight taxes, commission payable *the* type of retail shop Where *the* product is sold etc., the Ministry has constituted an expert committee to recommend to the Government the best method of declaration of sale price on the packages.

Mobile ration distribution centres in Andhra Pradesh

3611. SHRI V. HANUMAN-THA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(b) whether Government propose to use mobile ration distribution centres for Public Distribution System items in remote villages;

(c) if so, details thereof ;

(d) the areas selected in Andhra Pradesh for this purpose; and

(d) by when it will be implemen ted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) To supplement the efforts of the States/UTs to introduce mobile fair price shops to cover the consumer residing in hilly, remote, far-flung, desert, tribal and inaccessi-ble areas. Central Government has been providing financial assistance for the purchase of vans to be operated as mobile fair price shops.